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Communist China: Reopening of universities, which were effectively closed down nearly three years ago, may be further postponed.

Mao Tse-tung is reported to have decided last October not to resume normal classes in universities for another two years, apparently to allow time to select a teaching staff and student body considered politically reliable. This reversed a decision made last July authorizing resumption of technical training at the university level. Under that decision students were to be recruited mainly from the ranks of skilled workers.

Since last summer a large proportion of university students and teachers have been sent to the countryside. Those left behind are undergoing "re-education" under the supervision of "Mao Tse-tung Thought Worker Propaganda Teams" composed of workers and soldiers.

Political purification activities have closed all institutions of higher education, including even defense-related institutes, such as the elite University of Science and Technology. Similar activities are disrupting some scientific research institutes, especially those engaged in civilian work.

The protracted suspension of higher education in Communist China will retard the growth of scientific capabilities, but the effect on high-priority programs will not be significant in the short run.

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Ecuador: Mounting political strains may cause trouble when Congress convenes on 6 March.

25X1 [redacted] members of the cabinet, fearing that they will be questioned by opposition legislators, have suggested that President Velasco close Congress if it votes to censure any of them. The apparent dissolution of Velasco's legislative working agreement with other center leftists leaves his followers in a minority position. Difficulties with Congress have been an important factor in Velasco's three previous ousters from the presidency, and Ecuadorean military leaders, already restive over several issues, might move against him if he tries to dissolve the legislature.

At the same time, unresolved difficulties with powerful economic interests could precipitate resignations from the cabinet, which has already had several turnovers in the five months of the fifth Velasco administration. Velasco's unexpected rejection of a mutually beneficial agreement with a US petroleum consortium could also increase political and economic tensions.

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